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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/616,785	07/10/2003	Lawrence Wasicek	1001.1693101	2009
28/075 7590 10/15/2009 CROMPTON, SEAGER & TUFTE, LLC 1221 NICOLLET AVENUE SUITE 800 MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55403-2420				
EXAMINER				
NGUYEN, VI X				
ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER		
3731				
MAIL DATE		DELIVERY MODE		
10/15/2009		PAPER		

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

### Office Action Summary

**Application No.**

10/616,785

**Applicant(s)**

WASICEK, LAWRENCE

**Examiner**

Victor X. Nguyen

**Art Unit**

3731

**-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --**  
**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 24 February 2009.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8, 10-15, 19-21, 24-29, 33, 34, 38-40 and 44-46 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.

- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8, 10-15, 19-21, 24-29, 33, 34, 38-40 and 44-46 is/are rejected.

- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.

- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).  
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:  
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.  
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.  
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 2/24/09
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**DETAILED ACTION**

1. This office action is in response to communication filed on 2/24/2009.

Claims 1-8, 10-15, 19-21, 24-29, 33-34, 38-40 and 44-46 remain pending in this application.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1, 4-7, 10, 13, 20, 21, 24, 27, 34, 38-40, 44-46 are rejected under 35 U.S.C.

103(a) as being unpatentable over Daniel et al.

Claims 1, 10 and 44-46: Daniel et al disclose an elongate shaft 112 including a longitudinally extending proximal section 114 having a distal end, a longitudinally extending distal section having a proximal end, and a connector 132 connecting the proximal section and the distal section 114 of the elongate shaft, wherein the connector is fixedly secured to both the proximal section and the distal section (fig. 4), securing the distal end of the proximal section with the proximal end of the distal section. Daniel, fig. 4 is silent regarding a filter coupled to the shaft. However, Daniel teaches a filter 21 coupled to the shaft (fig. 9). It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Daniel's fig. 4 with a filter coupled to the shaft as taught by Daniel in other embodiment (figure. 9) in order to filter plaque, thrombus which releases into the blood stream during invasive procedures that performed in blood vessels.

With regard to claims 45, 46: Daniel et al disclose the claimed invention except for the filter is disposed proximal or distal to the connector. It would have been obvious matter of design choice to a person of ordinary skill in the art to modify Daniel's medical device (fig. 4) with the filter is disposed proximal or distal to the connector, since applicant has not disclosed that the filter is disposed proximal or distal to the connector solves any stated problem or is for any particular purpose and it appears that the invention would have filter 21 (fig. 9) disposed proximally or distally of the connector (fig. 4) without departing from the spirit of the invention.

Claims 2, 3, 6, 11-12, 25-26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Daniel et al in view of Stevens et al 6,029,671.

With regard to claims 2, 3, 6, 11-12, 25-26: Daniel et al disclose the claimed invention except for the proximal section comprises a first material (stainless steel) and the distal section comprises a second material (nickel titanium alloy) that is different from the first material, and where the first material has a first flexibility and the second material has a second flexibility that is more flexible than the first flexibility. Stevens et al teach the proximal section comprises a first material (stainless steel) and the distal section comprises a second material (nickel titanium alloy) that is different from the first material (fig. 4a, disclose the proximal section 440 and distal section 446 have different material), and where the first material has a first flexibility and the second material has a second flexibility that is more flexible than the first flexibility (see col. 11, lines 36-40 and col. 13, lines 48-56). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide the system of Daniel with the proximal section comprises a first material (stainless steel) and the distal section comprises a second material (nickel titanium alloy) that is different from the first material, and where the first

material has a first flexibility and the second material has a second flexibility that is more flexible than the first flexibility as taught by Stevens et al in order to allow variable bending stiffness in various regions (see col. 13, lines 48-64).

Claims 4, 5, 7, 8, 13, 27, 38: Daniel et al disclose the connector 132 comprises a third material that is compatible for bonding to both the first and second material, or the connector is welded to both the first and second material, or the connector blends the first flexibility with the second flexibility and the connector is disposed over the distal end of the proximal section and the proximal end of the distal section (fig. 4).

Claims 24, 29, and 40: Daniel discloses the invention substantially as claimed see the above rejections of claims 1 and 10 and further including the limitations of a filter assembly coupled to the filter wire (figures 7, 9), the filter assembly includes a filter frame 118 or 124 and a filter membrane 122 coupled to the filter.

Claims 14, 28: Daniel discloses the invention substantially as claimed except for the third material comprises a nickel-chromium alloy. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to construct the device included for the third material comprises a nickel-chromium alloy, since it has been held to be within the general skill of a worker in the art to select a known material on the basis of its suitability for the intended use as a matter of obvious design choice. In re Leshin, 125 USPQ 416.

Claims 20, 21, 34: Daniel et al disclose the device further comprises a covering over a portion of the core member, and wherein the covering comprises a polymer sheath (item 182, col. 2, lines 13-16).

With regard to claims 15, 19, 29, 33: Daniel et al disclose the claimed invention except for a reduced cross sectional area is defined adjacent at least one of the distal end of the proximal region and the proximal end of the distal region, wherein both the proximal region and the distal region include a reduced cross sectional area, and wherein the reduced cross sectional area of the proximal region and the reduced cross sectional area of the distal region are joined together to define a butt joint. It would have been obvious matter of design choice to a person of ordinary skill in the art to modify Daniel's medical device (fig. 4) with the reduced cross sectional area is defined adjacent at least one of the distal end of the proximal region and the proximal end of the distal region, wherein both the proximal region and the distal region include a reduced cross sectional area, and wherein the reduced cross sectional area of the proximal region and the reduced cross sectional area of the distal region are joined together to define a butt joint solves any stated problem or is for any particular purpose and it appears that the invention would have the proximal region and the distal region include a reduced cross sectional area, and wherein the reduced cross sectional area of the proximal region and the reduced cross sectional area of the distal region are joined together to define a butt without departing from the spirit of the invention.

### ***Response to Arguments***

3. Applicant's arguments filed 2/24/2009 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

### ***Conclusion***

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Victor X. Nguyen whose telephone number is (571) 272-4699. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (8-4.30 P.M).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, AnhTuan Nguyen can be reached on (571) 272-4963. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Victor X Nguyen/  
Examiner, Art Unit 3731

/Anh Tuan T. Nguyen/  
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 3731  
10/13/09